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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The New Executive Department. The Nelson bill for the establishmen of a Department of Commerce, with Cabinet, proposes to assemble from other departments the following heterogeneous assortment of bureaus, commissions and boards:

From the Treasury Department: The Life Saving Service. The Light House Board. The Marine Hospital Service The Steamboat Inspection Service The Bureau of Navigation The United States Shipping Commissioner The Bureau of Immigration. The Bureau of Statistics. The Coast and Geodetic Survey. From the Interior Department: The Census Office. The Patent Office.

The Bureau of Foreign Commerc-From elsewhere: The Department of Labor. The Commission of Pish and Pisheries.

From the State Department:

Besides this, the Nelson bill transfers to the Department of Commerce the jurisdiction now exercised by the Treasury over Chinese immigration, the fur seals, and the salmon and other Alaskan fisheries. It creates a new Bureau of Manufactures, and charges the Secretary of Commerce generally with the promotion, fostering and development of foreign and domestic commerce, mining, manufacturing, shipping and fishery industries, labor interests and transportation facilities.

Curiously enough, this remarkable shuffle, while stripping the Interior Department of two of its most important functions, patents and census, leaves to that department the office of the Commissioner of Railroads. It leaves to the Department of Agriculture the Section of Foreign Markets and the Office of Public Road Inquiries. It fails to take in from the unattached branches of the Government the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Bureau of American Republics.

All of these last-mentioned establishments fall as distinctly within the province of the proposed new Department of Commerce as anything therein included by the pending bill.

It is an ambitious measure, but apparently somewhat illogical.

## Secretary Root's New Staff Plan.

Wholly in line with the reforms in army management that he has already brought about is the recommendation that the Secretary of War will soon make to Congress, for the abolition of the Quartermaster's, the Subsistence and the Pay departments, and the single new bureau to perform their work. The changes made at Mr. Roor's suggestion by the Army Act of last February were the first step in a comprehensive scheme of army reform, which though not far advanced. is certain to prove highly beneficial to the service: the plan now proposed is a further step which will accelerate the reform already begun, and do away with almost the last hindrance to the creation of a modern army suited to the needs of the country.

The system of details to the staff, secured by Mr. Root in the Army act of last February, came as a shock to the departments, injecting new vitality into them, and awaking the remembrance of duties to the line long forgotand faults in the army, still existed. It master's Department provided furnicooks enlisted by the Adjutant-General's | the schoolhous: master's Department provided horses. all norts, yet an officer of the letter the school in the evening becreas had to attend, semetimes travelfulness of this system is apparent

ermy, there can be no such division of they will continue to take an interest in

responsibility as has existed, no conflict of authority. Requisitions from the line in every army fall within certain well-defined limits. Everything necessary to feed, clothe and otherwise maintain the army in fit condition will come under the jurisdiction of the subsistence department of the new bureau; all payments will be made by the finance department of that bureau; all details of transportation, instead of being divided among several offices, will be cared for by the transportation department, and ail construction work will be looked after by the construction depart- far more useful than they are now. ment. The detail system applied to the new supply department will keep its officers in touch with the needs of time to time, and can be applied as well

to the new bureau as to the old staff. The fact that the power of the staff a Secretary sitting in the President's by Secretary Root last year, when he secured the change from a permanent to a detailed staff, affords hope that he will be able to obtain the necessary prepared to complete the modernization of the army.

> The Isthmian Commission's Report. The following remarks, from a Washington despatch to the New York Press, are a specimen of much ignorant or intentionally disingenuous comment on the city almost certainly with the same canal situation as it stands to-day:

"From sources in a position to know, it was learned to-night that the members of the Canal Commission were unanimous in signing the report in favor of the Panama company's proposition.

When it is recollected that this same Commission in its original report recommended the Nicaragua route, and probably just as strongly as it now recommends the Panama route, it can be seen how easily the whole situation has been befogged."

Why should the presumably intelligent orrespondent of a reputable newspaper attempt to discredit in advance the decision of the Isthmian Canal Commission by this sort of misrepresentation? The previous recommendation of the Commission, as everybody knows who is familiar with the facts, was for Nicaragua as the most practicable and feasible route simply and solely because the price then put upon Panama made that route the more costly by not less than \$63,500,000. This was distinctly stated the Commission's former report. That report dwelt upon many of the material advantages of the Panama location, and the lower cost of maintenance and operation, and then went on to say: "But the price fixed by the Panama Canal Company for a sale of its property and franchises is so unreasonable that its acceptance cannot be recommended by this Commission."

Since the original report, the owners of the Panama Canal have offered it at the valuation fixed by the Commission itself. The cost of acquiring the Panama Canal franchises and property has been lowered about seventy millions of dollars; and the Commission is now enabled to eliminate the factor of vastly excessive cost for the better location, and to choose between the two routes on their merits.

That is the occasion of the supplementary report which is in President ROOSEVELT'S hands this morning. At the present time the character of its contents and the nature of its recommendations are matters of rumor and conjecture, not of public knowledge. But if the report is for Panama, unan or otherwise, there will be no ground ter how strongly prejudiced in favor among the Democrats of his State and air locomotives were to supersede the thousands of Nicaragua, can justly accuse the Commission of vacillation, of tergiversation, of befogging the canal situation, or of improperly abandoning past convictions under the pressure of any influence whatsoever.

The character and expert qualifications of the Isthmian Canal Commissioners are such that it ought not to be necessary to say this to any respectable citizen or newspaper.

## Voluntary Night Schools.

An extremely interesting exper ment ten. But the division of responsibility, has been carried on by the principal to which were due so many shortcomings of a Boston public school during the past year an account of which, taken the mournful strain: ran through all the staff departments, from the Boston Transcrip, is printed but was most apparent among those in another column. About a year ago, having to do with the supplies for the Mr. DUTTON, principal of the Hancock army. To what extent it prevailed is school, noticing that his higher grade evident from these facts: The Quarter- pupils were handicapped in preparing their lessons at home by interruptions ture, tables and chairs for the mess and the lack of any comfortable place rooms, the Ordnance Department the for study, invited those of them who mess-kits, but not ovens, the Subsist- needed especial help to meet him during ence Department the food, while the two hours of each Monday evening at

Department received their wages from The result was surprising Those the Pay Department. The Subsistence girls who did not need actual assistance Department did not feed the horses; came to the achool to study without the Quartermaster's Department per- interruption; others came for the asformed that duty, and provided lamps sistance offered, and during the year and oil, but the Subsistence Depart is per cent of the pupils of the minth ment susplied candles, the Quarter- grade, to whom especially the invitation had been extended, ettended the veterinary medicates and wagons, while evening acasions. It became impossible the Ordnance Department booked after for Mr DUTTON by himself to give the abouts. He is reckoned among conthe harness. Some buildings were con- attention needed, but eight other teachstructed by the Quartermaster's, others ere volunteered to help him, and the by the Ordinator Department. The two-hour sessions at first held only on mend the abandonment of the Pintips first-named bureau, though it paid out. Monday, were repeated on other nights. each year many times the amount dis until the school building was kept open bursed by the Pay Department, was four evenings in each work. Scholars not allowed to pay the men, a single of the two next lower grades also cought officer of the former department might permission to attend, more than half of pay millions of money for supplies of the eighth grade coming regularly to

Three caper acholars are not Ameriling bundreds of intios, to pay a few can born. The Franceript pays that of thousand deliars to troops. The waste. | the 2,800 children in the district, "thereis not one that can strictly be called Sucretary Boot's plan in continuation. American Some of the youngest were of his peforage abeliance the Pay, Sub- hears to Boston but not only is their materia and Quartermaster's depart, parentage foreign but so are their enments substituting therefor a single vacuuments and language. There are department with four branches charged taken into the achoose of this district with supplying slothing and submissions: every year from 300 to and children who of every kind, with the cure of disharm . ; carnot speak English." The important ments, with transportation and with our of Mr. Derrow's experiment from other projection At the loud of each of these than an educational standpoint is snown Impresses will be a Brigadier-General, while by this assertion. For the only place at the head of the whole will be a Major where these children can obtain a knowl-General The plan commends itself edge of our ways and institutions is in for its almodicity, which is great in com- the public actions If they appreciate periods with the existing eveters. With the fact that the achools are kept open a single stand of partners reasonable for their benefit, and make use of them take state toward having street signs placed for everything needed to maintain the for study as well as for social relaxation. at the corner of every accest in New York,

them long after they have graduated or left them and will value them with a

personal knowledge. Mr. DUTTON is not satisfied, but thinks the schools generally should be opened to the public during each evening, so that persons wishing to read would come to them, as they now may go to the Public Library If the children got into the habit of going to the schools in the evenings to read, or to meet their friends, the question of keeping boys and girls off the streets might solve itself in some degree, and the school buildings made

Our public school buildings, some of which have cost half a million dollars each, are opened only six hours a day the line of the army, as they vary from for five days a week; it seems as if more use might be made of them. The system of evening lectures in the schools does not obtain in Boston, at all events departments was successfully attacked to the extent that it does here; but valuable as that is, it seems as if Mr. DUTTON got more out of his school building than is obtained from any one of our schools through its use on five legislation to carry out the plan he has days and possibly two evenings in a week. There can be no doubt that the scholars at most of our public schools labor under the same disadvantages for home study that exist in Boston, and the opportunity for quiet work and special help at the schoolhouse during the evening would be welcomed in this eagerness as there.

#### Prospects of a Pickle Famine.

The pickle-producing area of the United States includes some portions of Michigan, Illinois and Indiana, and small parts of Missouri, Ohio and Iowa. As is the case generally with all minor agricultural products of the United States, for which the area of cultivation is limited and the demand desultory, there is occasionally a "famine" re-

sulting from a short crop. The Western Pickle Packers' Association recently in conference in Chicago have, it is reported, been considering an advance in pickle prices. It is declared that there may be a pickle famine before next summer notwithstanding the increase of \$1.50 a barrel over the prices of a year ago; and there is some talk of still further advance.

Following the annual ruin of the peach, cranberry and olive crops, there is now the menace of the annual failure of the pickle crop with the usual incidents of sensational reports of total loss and thousands of impoverished pickle farmers," reassuring bulletins from optimists hopeful of saving 83 to 89 per cent. of the crop, narratives from intelligent but uninformed tourists who believe that pickles are raised, as they are generally sold, in jars, and of weatherwise pickle veterans who will declare in interviews early in each season that "profitable pickle raising is a thing of the past," and later on that "everything considered, the yield is 2 per cent. above the normal crop."

There appears to be no hope for it. Pickles will join peaches as a theme of agricultural prophecy, if they have not done so already, in Michigan. The determination of the packers to consider as imminent a pickle famine the first in our history-is not susceptible of any other explanation.

## Uncle Horace's Advice.

When the Hon. HORACE BOIES was elected Governor of Iowa in 1889, there of some other Democrats. For the first time that great Republican State had chosen a Democratic Governor. Wise polls were wagged. It was clear that there were to be great overturnings. A low tariff was the protuberant Democratic issue to Mr. Bores in those days. He enlarged upon it often during his two terms as Governor. In 1893 came a frost, a killing frost. Mr. Boies went out of office at the end of the year. There eracked a boom. Since then he occasionally revisits the glimpses of the moon and croaks dismally with his Democratic brethren. His home is in Waterloo. There on Jackson Day he descanted upon imperialism. Hark to

"Gloss if over as we may, hide its repulsive form with the mantie of mock charity if we can: amother our conscience, if possible, with the hollow pretence that we are sending blessings for generations unbern with builets that drench another's land with blood, and still the cold truth remains that imperialism is robbery yes, worse than robbery that it is murder ab, worse than murder, for murder is only death, and death is the end of homan wor. but imperialize is the tyrating of mana moneter that crushes the aspirations of a race and buries in a common grave the hopes of the living with the mangied curpues of the dead."

so imperialism is as bad in the eyes of Mr Boxes as a protective tariff used to be. And what shall be done to the of tyrannous monster, imperialism?

" In some way the arbitr of this republic most

he called tonic-Mr flores is seventy-five or therepervative Democrats. And the best advice he can give his party is to recompines. The Bryan spell is still strong upon the Domocracy

A persuament triple aliance in New York consposed of schedules and foresten and automobilists come to be gaspred These users of our thoroughtenes have to olephins of being alchested in their efforce lugiceny implessinable, as Mas vilonia conclusively by their meeting on Jan. 30. at which seem personal stringsator from four the country carrier, the Association Cost of Associate the Langue of Associate Wiscol men, the Road Drivers' Association, and the Associated Civiling Cities of New York

It is, of source, intended time the neualgatherical child serve the practical and and cost superior child serve than the practic servest success of accounts to account the practic servest success and controlled to the communication selected to the superior success and controlled to the communication selected to the superior superior to the communication of accounts to the communication of the communicati apiet they will not just their respective andicaluality. Timy all agree that certain conditions directly affecting them east and that these conditions should be promptly remotied. For example, at the meeting referred to the appointment of examilities was nutbriged which should which should recommend that the present

practice of excessive sprinkling on asphalted streets be abolished; that certain highways be overhauled; that asphalted streets, when icy, be sprinkled with sand, and that a reform of the existing highway ordinances be accomplished, and on Saturday last the selection of the committees in question was announced. A committee was also appointed to secure the cooperation of other

Brooklyn and Long Island and also on We see no reason why the coalition now under way should not be beneficial to the public. At any rate, no harm can come from prompt and determined action in bahalf of better highways; and this may be expected from such a triple alliance.

prominent and similar organizations in

The appouncement that GUSTAVE WHITE-HEAD, the flying machine inventor of Bridgeport, is perfecting an airship for exhibition at the Louisiana Purchase Exhibition indicates that with the problem of aerial navigation genius is active in America as well as in Europe. Mr. WHITEHEAD, it is said, intends to compete for the \$100,000 prize offered by the World's Fair Company for a successful dirigible airship, flying machine or balloon, to be shown at the St Louis Exposition.

The flying-machine enthusiasts of France and they are much more numerous in that country than here-have received considerable encouragement from the recent developments there in electrical motors which, they believe, will greatly facilitate their undertaking. One of these motors was exhibited a few weeks ago at the Automobile Show in Paris, where it attracted no little attention. But utilizing a balloon for the purpose of flying, as does M. SANTOS-DUMONT, is not favored to any great extent by the inventors here. Mr. WHITEHEAD'S machine will be an aëroplane having a hull like a boat, which will contain the machinery necessary for its propulsion.

The question now is, which inventor will be able to fly first and fly farthest, with his machine under perfect control at all times?

Mr. GREEN of Wichita, aged 96, has had some interesting acquaintances, if his memory is good. A comrade of his boyhood was one of JOHN PAUL JONES's cabin boys. Mr. Green has talked with a man who saw, or said he saw, that famous semimythical ride of Old PUT, and insisted that PUTNAM rode not down the steps, but down a hill beside them. BURR, DECATUR, JACK-SON, SANTA ANA, VAN BUREN, were known to Mr GREEN Perhaps he didn't know DECATUR very well, as he must have been about 14 when DECATUR died. It is about fifty years since Mr. GREEN had a drink:

The last time I took a drink was the day FRANK LIN PIERCE was elected. Myself and three others went into a tavern and I set 'em up. The round cost me 12 cents. In those days whiskey was good and it didn't cost much. After I drank my jigger I turned around to the boys and said: 'That my last drink.' They laughed, but I have kept e pledge ever since."

One man drinks and lives to be a hundred; one man doesn't drink and lives to be a hundred. The secret remains secret.

The Hon. DENNIS FLYNN took a queer dozen of Oklahomans to the White House the other day. "Mr. President," said Mr. FLYNN, " the beauty of this delegation is that not one of them is a candidate for office or is recommending anybody else for office." Probably energetic emigrants from Kansas have got all the Oklahoma offices, and the other Oklahomans see the futility of competing with those irrepressible

## Oil Engines and Air Motors in Tunnels.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN Sir: While atten tion is directed to the matter of substituting for steam some safer and more modern motive power for moving railroad trains, particularly through nels, the recent experiment of the Boston and and smoke and gas in the Hoosac Tunnel a locomotive is being used there which burns oil. It has been in operation for about six weeks, and so satisfactory has been the test that more engines was a wild hullabaloo of exultation Barre contained the information that compressed

motives are reported to be strong and serviceable NEW YORK, Jan. 18.

#### Has the Cost of Living Gone Down? TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN SITE Mr. Carnegle

seems to me in error when he speaks of the "neces-saries of life being cheapened." I was talking to day with a man who conducts a nurant in this city and he told me that, taken as a whole, his supplies were now costing him more than at any time in twenty years.

This coincides with the figures given out not long since from some reliable source, which I don't at writing recall, that the entire cost of living had been increasing and now was at highest point for years.

Am I right or Mr. Carnegie?

F. C. LOWELL, Mass., Jon. 18.

Virginia Convention and Disfranchisement TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN SHE IN your para-graph of yesterday on the fruitless longevity of the Virginia Constitutional Convention, I noticed the following error: What is the Convention

To distrancities as many black voters as possible. without saying it in so many words, is the principal thing for which the convention was born and it is morally certain that it will accomplish at least this RALEIGH, N. C. Jan 16 W. M. FRANKLEN.

# Rigor of the Law of Speech.

To rue Fiston or The See Sr. The good idea which identifie conveyed by many of the views caprened in The See on manners and English of the young are pastly dispelled by the words good grammat. "had grammat," and "incorrect Am I not right in tellering as I was taught, and as I was think that all gracimar's good, and that taughts may be good as had "This tapithe may serve as a removed on Flagtlat of the sid."

## from Born, a New Anasthetic

From the Loyald
A note local acceptance physical from an Andian
plant gathed 'gate base's has recently been submitted by rarries taxamination by nome Hangar gare been in same of painty projetts and frame included it as a proceeded agent which might be place practic to the stratument of that condition place paramic to the streament of the condition in the paramic of the condition in the paramic of the streament of the streament of the stream processes of the paramic of

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#### VOLUNTARY NIGHT SCHOOLS. ccess of a Boston Teacher's Plan to Help His Scholars.

From the Boston Transcript

Principal L. H. Dutton of the Hancock district has long been satisfied that the pupils of the day schools in the upper grades of that district are handicapped in such a way that it is impossible for them without assistance from outside of the regular school routine to accomplish the work expected of them. To obviate this difficulty about a year ago he began meeting his ninth-grade pupils every Monday evening in the Hancock School house from 6:20 to 8:30, for the purpose of assisting them in their studies. The result was most gratifying. The girls were delighted it the opportunity given them to prosecute studies interrupted in many ways duties they are required to perform as wageearners of the family, and to do school work which it is impossible for them to perform in their homes because of surroundings that are uncongenial for efficient study. The district includes the Hincock School, the Cushman School, and the Paul Revere School, and the pupils are made up almost entirely of foreigners, principally Italians and He-brews, many of whom cannot speak a word of English when they enter the schools. so much interest have they shown in this opportunity given them to prosecute their upper grade work under more favorable auspices that the attendance for the past year up to the opening of the schools in September has been more than 98 per cent. of the ninth grade pupils. Of course, it was impossible for one person to give all of them the attention their welfare required and their desire for instruction demanded, and so it was determined by Principal Dutton to extend the work by keeping the building open four evenings in the week, and eight of his teach-

work by keeping the building open four evenings in the week, and eight of his teachers volunteered to assist him without pay. This opened up opportunities for the seventh and eighth, as well as the ninth, grade pupils to come into the schoolhouse for study or for special work for two hours four evenings in the week. Realizing that most of his pupils have no suitable place at home to read, those who are indifferent to study are permitted to come in and use the schoolhouse for a reading room during those hours and they are encouraged to invite any of their friends to join them.

Principal Dutton has long felt that there was no better use that the schoolhouses could be put to than to open them in the evenings to the use of the children for whom they are designed. That they will avail themselves of the advantages thus afforded he has demonstrated by his experiment, and that they need such a place to spend their evenings away from the crowded and unwholesome tenements in which they are forced to spend their lives is apparent to every one who has seen them in their wretched homes. The attendance so far this year in the night grade has been very flattering and in the eighth promising, more than 50 per cent being the average attendance. There is no class of children, Principal Dutton says, that show more eagerness to gain information than the foreign children in the schools, and they acquire it with great rapidity of the 2,800 pupils in the district—which includes besides those mentioned, the North Margin Street School and three classes in the North End Union Building—there is not one that can strictly be called American. Some of the youngest were born in Boston, but not only is their parentage foreign, but so are their environments and language. There are taken into these schools every year from 300 to 600 children who cannot speak English, and the correct knowledge they get of our ways and institutions, soon to become theirs, they must get from the public schools.

It is, therefore, of the utmost importance to the co

soon to become theirs, they must set from the public schools.

It is, therefore, of the utmost imnortance to the community of which they have become a part, and in the affairs of which they will eventually become an important factor for weal or woe, that their early attachments should be for the schoolhouses in which they get their first instruction, and to this end they should be taught to believe that the schools are kept onen for their benefit, and the more hours they are open and the more extensive their influence as evening homes and reading rooms the greater and wider will be their influence. Once get the children in the habit of going there when they are young and they will not desert them when they have entered upon other avocations of life. Principal Dutton says will become of these young girls after they have left school, and he believes that a most important problem would be solved if all of the schools of the city should be kept open evenings for the use of such people as might wish to resort to them for reading purposes, the same as they do to the Public Library. A double end would thus be served, for not only would a love for good reading be encouraged, but the people would continue the affection for the schools and the cause of education inculcated in their youth, and, what is still better, they would encourage it in their children. It does seem a waste of good material to keep open only for five hours five days in the week the great and expensive buildings dedicated to educational purposes, when there are so many wavs in which they could be turned to use in the interest of the public, and without interfering in the slightest with the purposes for which they were primarily erected. which they were primarily erected

#### Are the New York Elementary Night Schools to Re Closed Next Month?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN Sir: It is currently reported in school circles that (as inferred, from motives of economy) the ele-mentary evening schools will be closed by the Board of Education at the beginning of February. It is understood, however, that this action will not affect the evening high schools, which, by some process of reasoning not clear to the lay mind, are to be allowed to

continue. Upon the assumption that the report is correct. I desire to call public attenti what must appear, upon unbiassed considera-tion of the facts, an act of great injustice to the class primarily intended to be benefited by the establishment of these evening schools. I refer to the scholars in the elementary schools. who are almost entirely (20 per cent probably) recruited from the ranks of the working classes boys and girls who work for a living during the day, and study at night to secure the bare rudiments of an education furnished by schools of this grade. They are almost by schools of this grade. They are almost makes no discrimination between fine that this is their sole opportunity of acquiring teathers and rags. Its ignores the lesson taught that this is their sole opportunity of acquiring such knowledge as may serve to lift them a little above the lower ranks

school term, stand the high schools, proposed to be continued, at the expense of the ele-mentary. The high schools are understood to be made up, ordinarily, of pupils less neces-sitous in their circumstances, or, even where this may not be the case, of those who have made greater progress in their education. The curriculum in both grades of schools is not very dissimilar, save that in the high achools the course is further advanced and device of these men represent prosperous office indicates the course is further advanced and device of these men represent prosperous office indicates who performs few hours mental execution. that Latin is among the branches taught But the evil of discrimination lies in the fact that the working clauses have no resource for education but the elementary exeming achinds. The high achind schulars, on the other hand, could full have on various attor institutions for instruction in the more ad-

It is asinuatic that the most especially may in which any timestiment has results miss is in the matter of educational facilities furnished its citizens. This is an easily demonstratic as any other joint in economics. But, waiving this as an aside, and admitting for the make of argument that for some reason or other it has become accesses to

The proper constants former of the laster had be \$1 and schools must be classed close the

## PLAN FOR WORLD'S FAIR. A Very Original Scheme With Many Strik-

ing Features. TO THE EDITER OF THE S'N-Sir: Enplan for the World's Fair at St. Louis, 1903 settle a controversy it was decided to submit to a few prominent men the follow-

The grounds to be a facsimile of the United That all State lines be vitrified brick, tan bark or granitoid walks, and to be lighted by

electricity. That the Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Illinois and other rivers and lakes be represented by lagoons.

That all cities of 25,000 or more popula

tion be invited to erect a building for an art exhibit or waiting and toilet room, or a statue on their exact geographical location on the grounds. This, I believe, would arouse the pride of each city to erect a building that they would be proud of, and there would be

rivalry and competition.

That all State capitals erect a building on their exact geographical location. That one foreign exhibit be allotted to

each State. That a surface street railroad be built on the boundary of the United States all on the boundary of the United States all the way around.
Would allot, say, one space in each State for firms who desired to advertise their wares, who would erect a building to cost not less than, say, \$10,000, all plans subject to approval of the World's Fair Committee.
Would offer a prize, say, of \$5,000 for the most handsome building.
That renowned historical buildings be duplicated, as many as possible, and as far as possible, as used for arbibles. For example, the same of the control of the

That renowned historical buildings be duplicated, as many as possible, and as far as possible, be used for exhibits. For example: The Collseum of Rome could be used for a horse and stock exhibit; the Pyramids of Egypt as a skating rink, dining hall, maze or otherwise.

A Midway could begin at the Atlantic Ocean and the State line between Virginia and North Carolina, extending west to California, which would not interfere with any city's geographical location.

The large buildings, art, mechanics, forestry, &c., to be located in the large Western States.

The large buildings, art, mechanics, forestry, &c., to be located in the large Western States.

That one of the entrances to the grounds be a facsimile of one of the great Chinese gates and wall, and another entrance a facsimile of the gate and wall of Jerusalem.

People would know the location of every exhibit before they visited the Fair, and when they arrived, would be perfectly familiar with the grounds. Appointments would be made by family and friend in morning where they could meet at noon and night. There would be little danger of people not locating the place of meeting.

I would suggest that no building be removed after the Fair is over. Let them all remain as monuments of the intelligent commercial energy of St. Louis. Some objections may be made to this, for the reason that some of the buildings would be frame. There are many frame houses in St. Louis that were built from twenty-five to thirty years ago, and have not had the best of care, and are still in evidently substantial condition. The grounds would be visited by many people for years after the Fair who were not able to attend the Fair. It would be an inducement in many cases for the country inerchants to make their purchases at St. Louis, and at the same time visit the Fair site.

My ground plan would attract the eves of the civilized world to the map of the United States and St. Louis, and the question would not be asked hereafter "Where is St. Louis?"

The foreign exhibits, as far as possible, could be in States beginning with the same letter. For example: Alaska and Asia exhibits could be in Arkansas; Africa and Austria could be in Alabama; Denmark in Dakota; France in Florida; Germany in Georgia, &c., &c.

St. Louis, Jan. 15.

St. Louis, Jan. 15.

#### A Prophecy About America.

From the Astrologer's Magazine and Philosoph-ical Miscellany of Oct. 17, 1793. Empire has been travelling from east to west; probably her last and broadest seat will be in America; here the sciences and the arts of civilized life are to receive their highest improvement; here civil and religious liberty are to flourish unchecked by the cruel and blighting hand of civil and religious tyranny; here genius aided by all the improvements of former ages is to be exerted in hu-manizing mankind in expanding and enriching their minds with religious and philexecuting a form of government which shall involve all the excellencies of former gov-ernments, with as few of their defects as is consistent with the imperfections of human affairs, and which shall be calculated to protect and unite in a manner consistent with the natural rights of mankind, the largest empire that ever existed. Elevated visions of fancy, we cannot but anticipate the period as not far distant, when the Ameriable grounds, the Mississippi was never designed as the western boundary of the Ameri-can Empire, for can it be probable that the God of Nature ever intended that some of the best part of his earth should be inhabited by the subjects of a monarch residing 4,000 miles from them. And may we not venture to predict that when the rights of man shall be more fully known (and the knowledge of them is fast increasing both in Europe and America) the power of European po-tentates will be confined to Europe, and their

ent foreign dominions become, like the United States, free, sovereign and independent empires? Remarks From a Woman and a Strapholder TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIL We learn in

natural history that the omnivorous suoid mam mal is found throughout the world, the historian fails to state that he is indigenous to the clevated rellroad cars in New York.

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TELEPHONES TO RUN TRAINS. Illinois Central to Give Up Sending Order

by Telegraph. CHICAGO, Jan. 19 .- Telephones will soon supplant the telegraph on the Illinois Central Railroad system. Contracts have been let for the equipment of the railroad's 5,000 miles of lines with the new service. The management plans to abandon the telegraphic means of communication in favor of the voice-carrying wires. All

favor of the voice-carrying wires. All train orders and messages of every kind are to be transmitted by the long-distance apparatus, instead of the telegraph key.

The Illinois Central Railroad operates more than 5,000 miles of road. To equip this with the new system will cost about \$100 a mile or \$500,000 for the entire task. Several railroad companies have been experimenting with telephones in transmitting train orders, but have hesitated until now to substitute them for the teleto substitute them for the tele graphic system.

# DR. CARROLL'S STATISTICS.

#### The Figures of Church Growth Discussed by a Roman Catholic.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The statistics of the growth of religious denominations published on Friday are exceedingly interesting. They place the Roman Catholic Church at the head of the list with an addition to its communicants of 468,083 during the past year. The second on the list is the Episcopalian Church with 31,341 adherents.

Dr. Carroll regards the stated increase in If actual facts were obtainable he would find understate the truth, and very much so. Arch. bishop Ireland places the actual membership of the Roman Catholic Church in this country at 14,000,000. He says that the returns given by the Catholic Directory, which places the total at 10,775,000, are very much below the mark. It is a well-known fact that a Catholic pastor minimizes the size of his congregation. Many of them give returns only of the people who support the Church financially. that contribute to lessen the aggregate result.

ing a half a million, about, would run up to three quarters of a million. There is another interesting fact and that is the growth of the convert movement. Car-dinal Gibbons estimated the number of condinal Gibbons estimated the number of converts coming into the Church in adult life to be 80,000 a year. This was ten years ago. Since then this movement has grown to unwonted proportions. It has doubled itself in ten years. In many of the larger churches additions of two or three hundred every year by conversion are not unusual.

The Census Bureau Bulletin of January, 1902, makes the population in the Philippines and Porto Rico 7,014,592, which added to Dr. Carroll's figures makes over 17,000,000 Catholics or over 60 per cent. of the church-going people under the American flag.

The relative strength of the churches is a very attractive study.

Observer.

Foreign Notes of Real Interest England used half a million Christmas trees last

Robert Green, for forty-seven years verger in St. Paul's Cathedral, died recently aged 80 years. Turin is to have an international exhibition of modern decorative art, open from April to Oct. A library of 18,000 volumes, all written by women

was left by Madame Kalssavow, who died recently n St. Petersburg. A new fad in London is to decorate the staircase with flowers in bloom arranged on the ledges ou

side the banisters. A little Finglish girl on seeing the new stamps cooked at the effigy of the King, and then said, "Mamma, has the King sent his collar to the wash." Guben in Brandenburg has gone wild on dog flesh. The town authorities have decided that all dogs intended for human consumption must be

slaughtered in the public abattofr. At Camborne in Cornwall, the centenary was ted on Christmas eve of the first locomotive and first automobile, Trevethick's locomotive or "Captain Dick's Puffer," as it was called.

Bertin wits have already found a nickname for the Kaiser's collection of statues of the Electors of Brandenburg in the Siegesaliee of the Thier-garten. They call it the Puppenaliee, the Doll avenue.

Prizes of \$1,250, \$750 and \$500 for the best instru ments to measure wind pressure are offered by the Hamburg Marine Observatory to German and foreign inventors. The plans must be sent in by April 1, 1908. in a bog near Tuam an ancient Irish corrack,

the surface, well preserved. It measures fifty Keitle remains in the Dublin museum One Polar expedition is accounted for. Baron Toll's Russian expedition in the Sarja, proceeding from the Siberian coast, attained 77° 87 north latt-tude north of the New Siberian Islands but was

unable to reach Bennett Island. It is wintering in Verpinski Bay. Last season's fishing was the best the North Sea herring fishermen have known. Twenty eight thousand six hundred and sixty six lasts, each of 13,200 fish, making shout 375,000,000 herrings, were landed at Yarmouth. The average earning

the boats were from \$5,000 to \$6,000 for the four months. Although the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Company increased its passenger rates last year, it was unable to pay its shareholders the usual bonus of 8 per cent, but managed to pay the cus-tomary dividend. The reason given is the fall in freights and the increase in the cost of labor

London is worked up over the flacon cipher The Times prints three columns a day of letters for or against the theory, which covers rat merely the authorship of Shakeapeare's plays, but shameful scandal about Queen Elizabeth, Andrew Lang, Sidney Lee and W. H. Mallock have been drawn into the correspondence airead;

The British recruiting system is an illustration of hat this is their sole opportunity of acquiring feathers and rags. He ignores the leason taught him by women who, ashamed of his rudeness, the mercuits name has to be entered some this above the lower ranks.

As against these as hools, proposed to be losed before the usual end of the evening offer their sens to eiderly men, whose white locals and a bulky document has been got ready offer their sens to eiderly men, whose white locals, and a bulky document has been got ready offer their sens to eiderly men, whose white locals, and a bulky document has been got ready offer their sens to eiderly men, whose white locals and a bulky document has been got ready offer their sens to eiderly men. by the time each man is ripe to take the oath

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dictine ables of Measurems, founded in The e-confluented to 1800 has been restored to the foun-dictine order to barm ton Cramer Richt a Fred of the old ablery for an one marks from the Ha-State and sold them to the Remedictions for a n Mast. 1. Delimerics Fettiless, the greatest

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